

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10

OMB-01 SCCT-01 /079 W

----- 122002

R 011258Z MAY 75

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 909

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 150

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: BRIGHT WEATHER LIGHT EARLY VOTE ON ELECTION DAY

REF: BELFAST 149

1. POLLS OPENED AT 0800 ON SUNNY MORNING MAY 1.
EARLY VOTING LIGHT THROUGHOUT PROVINCE BUT THIS DUE PARTLY
WORKING PEOPLE HAVING INSUFFICIENT TIME VOTE BEFORE
REPORTING TO WORK. POLLS REMAIN OPEN TO 2000 AND UPSURGE
VOTING EXPECTED AROUND 1700. FINAL ELECTION RESULTS
EXPECTED EARLY MAY 3.

2. NOBODY KILLED ON EVE OF POLL BUT TERRORISTS REMINDED
EVERYONE OF EXISTENCE BY TWO BOMBINGS NORTH BELFAST ONE
ORANGE HALL AND OTHER RESIDENCE OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC AND
LABOUR PARTY (SDLP) CANDIDATE TOM DONNELLY. GROUP CALLING
ITSELF BELFAST BRIGADE OF YOUNG REPUBLICAN REVOLUTIONARIES
CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY BOMBING ORANGE HALL. ON OTHER SIDE,
GROUP CLAIMING BE PROTESTANT ACTION FORCE STATED APRIL 30
IT RESPONSIBLE SECTARIAN MURDERS SEVEN "REPUBLICANS" IN
RECENT WEEKS INCLUDING THREE MEMBERS FAMILY KILLED BY BOOBY
TRAP BOMB AND THREE MEN SHOT IN DARTS CLUB MAY 25. GROUP
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THREATENED TO HIT PROTESTANT ULSTER VOLUNTEER FORCE UNLESS

LATTER CALLED OFF CURRENT INVESTIGATIONS.

3. IN MORE SEDATE LAST FLING OF ELECTION CAMPAIGN OFFICIAL UNIONISTS CHARGED EVENING APRIL 30 SDLP AND UNIONIST PARTY NORTHERN IRELAND HAD ARRANGED DEALS FOR PREFERENCE CROSS-VOTING IN SEVERAL CONSTITUENCIES. ULSTER DEFENSE ASSOCIATION (UDA) APRIL 30 CONFIRMED ACCUSATION BY SDLP DEPUTY LEADER JOHN HUME THAT UDA HAD CONTINGENCY PLAN TO ABDUCT UP TO 20 CATHOLICS AS HOSTAGES FOR RELEASE TWO UDA MEMBERS NOW MISSING MORE THAN THREE WEEKS. UDA REPORTEDLY DROPPED PLAN WHEN FEAKLE TALK PARTICIPANT REVEREND WILLIAM ARLOW CONVINCED THEM REPUBLICANS NOT RPT NOT INVOLVED IN DISAPPEARANCES. SDLP HAS TRIED, WITHOUT DISCERNIBLE EFFECT, TO MAKE ELECTION ISSUE OF ALLEGED LOYALIST POLITICIANS TIES TO PARAMILITARY GROUPS.

SPICER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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